

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-40 (Canceled)

41. (Currently Amended). A smoke filter comprising a first portion and a second portion, said first portion being closed against particulate material flow ~~by barrier means~~ and said second portion providing a through path for particulate material flow, said first portion and said second portion being separated by barrier means, said barrier means ~~closing said first portion and said barrier means separating said first and second portions~~ being formed from a membrane of vapour porous polymeric material having pores therein, which pores have a pore size of less than about 0.1 μ m, wherein said first portion forms a core and said second portion forms an outer annulus of a core-annulus arrangement and wherein said first and said second portions are in coaxial alignment.

42. (Previously Presented). A smoke filter according to claim 41, wherein the barrier means is porous to the vapour phase of smoke.

43. (Previously Presented). A smoke filter according to claim 41, wherein said barrier means is formed from a flexible material.

44. (Previously Presented). A smoke filter according to claim 41, wherein said polymeric material is selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polyethylene, polyvinylidene fluoride, polyvinyl chloride, polycarbonate, nylon, TeflonTM (PTFE), cellulose acetate or nitrocellulose.

45. (Previously Presented). A smoke filter according to claim 41, wherein said first portion of the tobacco smoke filter comprises an adsorbent material.

46. (Previously Presented). A smoke filter according to claim 45, wherein said adsorbent material is a general adsorbent.

47. (Previously Presented). A smoke filter according to claim 46, wherein said general adsorbent is a carbonaceous material.

48. (Previously Presented). A smoke filter according to claim 47, wherein said carbonaceous material is in the form of a thread, particles/granules, cloth, paper or a reconstituted carbon-containing paper.

49. (Previously Presented). A smoke filter according to claim 46, wherein said general adsorbent is a non-carbonaceous material selected from the group consisting of zeolite, silica, meerschaum, aluminum oxide or combinations thereof.

50. (Previously Presented). A smoke filter according to claim 41, wherein said first portion of said smoke filter comprises a catalyst.

51. (Previously Presented). A smoke filter according to claim 50, wherein said catalyst facilitates the conversion of carbon monoxide (CO) to carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the vapour phase of the smoke.

52. (Previously Presented). A smoke filter according to claim 51, wherein said catalyst is selected from the group consisting of transition metal oxides, silica, alumina, zeolites, impregnated carbon.

53. (Previously Presented). A smoke filter according to claim 41, wherein said first portion of said smoke filter comprises a selective adsorbent.

54. (Previously Presented). A smoke filter according to claim 53, wherein said selective adsorbent material is selected from the group consisting of an ion-exchange resin, zeolite or silica.

55. (Previously Presented). A smoke filter according to claim 41, wherein said first portion comprises an adsorbent and a catalyst.

56. (Previously Presented). A smoke filter according to claim 41, wherein said filter further comprises a third portion, which third portion comprises an adsorbent.

57. (Currently Amended). A smoke filter comprising a first portion and a second portion, said first portion being closed against particulate material flow and said second portion providing a through path for particulate material flow, said ~~frist~~ first portion and said second portion being separated by barrier means, said barrier means is formed from a vapour porous polymeric material having pores therein, which pores have a pore size of less than about 01.µm, wherein said filter further comprises a third portion, which third portion comprises an adsorbant and wherein said third portion is located upstream of said first portion of the filter.

58. (Previously Presented). A smoke filter according to claim 41, wherein said second portion of said filter comprises a conventional smoke filtration material.

59. (Previously Presented). A smoke filter according to claim 58, wherein said conventional smoke filtration material is one or more of cellulose acetate, paper and polypropylene.

60. (Canceled).

61. (Previously Presented). A smoke filter according to claim 60[41], wherein said first portion forms an inner core and said second portion forms an outer annulus of a core-annulus arrangement.

62. (Previously Presented). A smoke filter, comprising a first portion and a second portion, said first portion being closed against particulate material flow and said second portion providing a through path for particulate material flow, said first portion and said second portion being separated by barrier means, said barrier means is formed from a

vapour porous polymeric material having pores therein, which pores have a pore size of less than about 0.1 μ m and wherein said second portion forms a core and said first portion forms an outer annulus of a core-annulus arrangement and wherein said first and said second portions are in coaxial alignment.

63. (Previously Presented). A smoke filter according to claim 41, wherein said first portion is formed of a number of discrete, substantially longitudinal segments arranged in co-axial alignment within said second portion of said filter.

64. (Previously Presented). A smoke filter according to claim 63, wherein each segment of said first portion is separated from said second portion by barrier means.

65. (Previously Presented). A smoke filter according to claim 41, wherein said first portion is closed to the through flow of particulate phase material at the upstream end thereof.

66. (Previously Presented). A smoke filter according to claim 65, wherein closure of said first portion is achieved by a plug.

67. (Previously Presented). A smoke filter according to claim 66, wherein said plug is formed from a material selected from the group consisting of a high pressure drop cellulose acetate, polypropylene, polyethylene, polyvinylidene fluoride, polyvinyl chloride, polycarbonate, nylon, Teflon™ (PTFE), nitrocellulose, plastic or metal.

68. (Previously Presented). A smoke filter according to claim 41, wherein said filter further comprises additional portions of conventional smoke filtration material.

69. (Previously Presented). A smoke filter according to claim 41, wherein at least said first and second portions are in co-axial alignment with at least one additional filter portion.

70. (Previously Presented). A smoke filter according to claim 69, wherein said at least one additional portion of said filter is in end-to-end abutment with said first and second portions of the filter.

71. (Previously Presented). A smoke filter according to claim 68, wherein said additional portions are comprised of cellulose acetate.

72. (Previously Presented). A smoking article comprising a smoke filter according to claim 41 in combination with a rod of smoking material wrapped in a wrapper.

73. (Previously Presented). A smoking article according to claim 72, wherein said smoking material comprises a flavourant.

74. (Previously Presented). A smoking article according to claim 73, wherein said flavourant is in stabilized or encapsulated form.

75. (Previously Presented). A smoking article according to Claim 73, wherein said flavourant is a non-volatile flavourant.

76. (Canceled).

77. (Canceled).

78. (Canceled).